

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 IO-13
OMB-01 /067 W
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R 111506Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1737
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 984

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO
SUBJECT: EXPANSION DECIDED: PLO APPOINTS DELEGATION TO VISIT AMMAN

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PLO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MET IN DAMASCUS LAST WEEKEND AND AGREED TO EXPAND PNC TO 271 MEMBERS FROM CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AROUND 180. PNC WILL RECONVENE AT ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO MARCH 12. DELEGATION HEADED BY KHALID FAHUM APPOINTED TO INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH GOJ. FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED EFFORTS TO DILUTE THEIR STRENGTH, AND YASIR ARAFAT HAS EATHERED ANOTHER LEADERSHIP CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

2. FEB 8 PRESS REPORTED THAT PLO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE HAD CONCLUDED ITS WORK BY DETERMINING EXPANSION OF PNC AND DATE IT WILL RECONVENE. PNC NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET IN CAIRO MARCH 12
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FOLLOWING ARAF-AFRICAN SUMMIT. APPROXIMATELY NINETY NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO PNC, RAISING ITS TOTAL FROM APPROXIMATELY 180 TO 271. FEB 7 PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT EXCOMM AND PNC SECRETARIAT HAD AUTHORIZED FORMATION OF DELEGATION TO TRAVEL TO AMMAN FEB 12 TO INITIATE DIALGOUE WITH GOJ. DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF KHALID FAHUM, SAMI ATTARI (MEMBER OF BAATHPARTY NATIONAL COMMAND AND SAIQA SEC GEN), MAHMUD ABBAS (ABU MAZIN),

AND HANI AL-HASSAN. NEW DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THESE MEETINGS WILL PRESUMABLY BE SET AFTER PERIOD OF MOURNING FOR QUEEN ALI HAS PASSED.

3. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE, PRIOR TO PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FAHUM GOT IN TOUCH WITH CAIRO PLO REP JAMAL SURANI TO ARRANGE RESERVATION OF ARAB LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS AROUND FEB 20--BUT NO LATER THAN FEB 25--FOR PNC MEETING. SURANI REPORTED TO FAHUM THAT PREMISES UNAVAILABLE UNTIL MID-MARCH. WHEN FAHUM PASSED THIS ALONG TO ARAFAT, LATTER EXPRESSED ANGER OVER DELAY SINCE HE HAD HOPED TO HAVE NEW MANDATE BEFORE EARLY MARCH ARAB MINI-SUMMIT. SOURCE, WHO OBTAINED THESE DETAILS FROM FAHUM, ADDED THAT ARAFAT NOW ASSURED OF RE-ELECTION TO EXCOMM. FAHUM TOLD SOURCE REJECTION FRONT SUPPORTERS WILL PROBABLY ATTEND; CONTACTS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH THEM, DURING WHICH THEY ASKED SOME SEATS BE SET ASIDE, AND EVEN PFLP MEMBERS MAY BE PRESENT.

4. ARAB PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT JORDANINA-PLO RECONCILIATION, IF IT OCCURS, WILL COINCIDE WITH CONFRONTATION STATES' SUMMIT WHICH SUPPOSED TO BE HELD IN DAMASCUS IN MARCH. EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT ASAD AND HUSSEIN MAY NOW PREFER AMMAN AS VENUE OF RECONCILIATION WITHASAD AND POSSIBLY SADAT PRESENT. SYRIANMEDIA HAVE BEEN STEADILY PROMOTING SUCH A RECONCILIATION OVER LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. ALSO IN ANOTHER CONNECTION WE HAVE HEARD THAT ASAD PLANS TO BE ABSENT FROM DAMASCUS MARCH 9.

5. COMMENT: WE INFER FROM ARAFAT'S CONFIDENCE AND FACT THAT
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LARGER EXPANSION PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED THT ARAFAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY BLUNTED ATTEMPTS TO DILUTE STRENGTH OF FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS IN PNC. ASSUMING HIS CONFIDENCE IN WELL-FOUNDED, ARAFAT WILL HAVE SUCCESSFULLY WEATHERED ANOTHER LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN PLO.

SARG CAN ALSO TAKE SOME SATISFACTION FROM RECENT DECISIONS; PLACEMENT OF FAHUM AND ATTARI ON DELEGATION TO AMMAN WILL ASSURE SYRIAN INPUT IN PROCESS OF PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN RECONCILIATION.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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